AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

(Currently Amended) A method for performing device address assigning functionality in intelligent hardware, said method comprising:

receiving a network access request from an electronic device communicatively coupled to said intelligent hardware;

transmitting a device address request to a network server communicatively coupled to said intelligent hardware;

receiving a first device address from said network server communicatively coupled to said intelligent hardware; and assigning a second device address to said electronic device

communicatively coupled to said intelligent hardware;

wherein said intelligent hardware is wall-mountable and comprises a user-accessible surface such that a user is provided direct access to said intelligent hardware.

2. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said intelligent hardware comprises:

a first interface for communicatively coupling said intelligent hardware to a network, said network comprising said network server;

a second interface for communicatively coupling said intelligent hardware to a plurality of said electronic devices such that each said electronic device is communicatively coupled to said network;

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a processor coupled to said first interface and said second interface; and

a device address retriever coupled to said processor.

- 3. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said first device address and said second device address are an IP addresses.
- 4. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said network server comprises a DHCP server.
- 5. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said first device address is the same as said second device address.
- 6. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said first device address is a global device address.
- 7. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said second device address is a private device address.
- 8. (Currently Amended) A method for performing device address assigning functionality in intelligent hardware, said method comprising:

receiving a network access request from an electronic device communicatively coupled to said intelligent hardware, said intelligent hardware

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having a first device address, wherein said intelligent hardware is wall-mountable and comprises a user-accessible surface such that a user is provided direct access to said intelligent hardware; and

assigning a second device address to said electronic device communicatively coupled to said intelligent hardware, such that said intelligent hardware eliminates the need for a separate device address assigning server.

9. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said intelligent hardware comprises:

a first interface for communicatively coupling said intelligent hardware to a network;

a second interface for communicatively coupling said intelligent hardware to a plurality of said electronic devices such that each said electronic device is communicatively coupled to said network;

a processor coupled to said first interface and said second interface; and

a device address assignor coupled to said processor.

- 10. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said first device address and said second device address are IP addresses.
- 11. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 9 wherein said device address assignor is a DHCP server.

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- 12. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said first device address is the same as said second device address.
- (Original) A method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said first device 13. address is a global device address.
- 14. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said second device address is a private device address.
- 15. (Currently Amended) An intelligent device for performing device address assigning functionality comprising:
 - a wall-mountable housing;
- a first interface for communicatively coupling said intelligent device to a network;
- a second interface for communicatively coupling said intelligent device to a plurality of electronic devices such that each said electronic device is communicatively coupled to said network, wherein said second interface is comprised within a user-accessible surface such that a user is provided direct access to said intelligent hardware;
- a processor coupled to said first interface and said second interface; and

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a device address retriever coupled to said processor for retrieving a first device address for said intelligent device from a network server of said network and for assigning a second device address to said electronic device;

wherein said first interface, said second interface, said processor and said device address retriever are comprised within said wall-mountable housing.

- 16. (Original) An intelligent device as recited in Claim 15 wherein said first device address and said second device address are IP addresses.
- 17. (Original) An intelligent device as recited in Claim 15 wherein said network server is a DHCP server.
- 18. (Original) An intelligent device as recited in Claim 15 wherein said first device address is the same as said second device address.
- 19. (Original) An intelligent device as recited in Claim 15 wherein said first device address is a global device address.
- 20. (Original) An intelligent device as recited in Claim 15 wherein said second device address is a private device address.

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21. (Currently Amended) An intelligent device for performing device address assigning functionality, said intelligent device having a first device address, said intelligent device comprising:

a wall-mountable housing;

a first interface for communicatively coupling said intelligent device to a network;

a second interface for communicatively coupling said intelligent device to a plurality of electronic devices such that each said electronic device is communicatively coupled to said network, wherein said second interface is comprised within a user-accessible surface such that a user is provided direct access to said intelligent hardware;

a processor coupled to said first interface and said second interface;

a device address assignor coupled to said processor for assigning a second device address to said electronic device;

wherein said first interface, said second interface, said processor and said device address assignor are comprised within said wall-mountable housing.

22. (Original) An intelligent device as recited in Claim 21 wherein said first device address and said second device address are IP addresses.

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- 23. (Original) An intelligent device as recited in Claim 21 wherein said device address assignor is a DHCP server.
- 24. (Original) An intelligent device as recited in Claim 21 wherein said first device address is the same as said second device address.
- 25. (Original) An intelligent device as recited in Claim 21 wherein said first device address is a global device address.
- 26. (Original) An intelligent device as recited in Claim 21 wherein said second device address is a private device address.

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